

Message Text

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51

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 SSO-00 PPTE-00 SCA-01 PRS-01 H-03

PER-05 A-01 SS-07 USIE-00 L-03 FSE-00 /028 W

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O 021450Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7596

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2095

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: CDES, DA

SUBJ: HAFNIA HOTEL FIRE - REPORT NO. 6. - GUIDELINES ON DIS-
POSITION OF REMAINS.

REF: COPENHAGEN 2090

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPARTMENT MUST PLAN ON A LARGER
NUMBER OF IDENTIFIED AMERICANS CONFIRMED OR PRESUMED DEAD
IN THIS DISASTER. AS PRACTICALLY NO NOK INFORMATION HAS COME
TO HAND AS OF NOW (1215 HOURS LOCAL), WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL
HAVE TO TAKE CONSIDERABLY MORE ACTION IN LOCATING AND COMMUNI-
CATING WITH NOK OF VICTIMS THAN IS NORMALLY THE CASE IN DEATHS OF
AMCITS ABROAD.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION INCLUDES A SUMMARY OF DANISH LEGAL
PROCEDURES WHICH MAY BE APPRECIATED IN PRESENT UNUSUAL CIRCUM-
STANCES, AS WELL AS PRICES AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION.

2. EMBASSY ASSUMES SOME FORM OF INQUEST BEFORE REMAINS ARE
RELEASED. ALTHOUGH WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO ABBREVIATE THIS
PROCESS, PLANNING SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF SOME
DAYS DELAY. SUBSEQUENT TO RELEASE, BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF
CADAVERS POSSIBLY INVOLVED, AND LIMITED NUMBERS OF UNDERTAKERS
EXPERIENCED IN SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO THE
US, SOME FURTHER DAYS OF DELAY MAY BE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE ALL
SHIPMENTS ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE. AGAIN, EMBASSY WILL DO ALL IT CAN
TO REDUCE DELAY. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT PRUDENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT
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POSSIBLY AS MUCH AS ONE TO TWO WEEKS MAY BE REQUIRED-BEFORE REMAINS

ARE RETURNED TO US.

3. ESTIMATED PRICES ARE: A) LOCAL BURIAL COPENHAGEN DOLS 500.00;
B) CREMATION AND LOCAL BURIAL DOLS 450.00; C) RETURN CREMATED
REMAINS US BY AIR DOLS 500.00; D) RETURN PREPARED REMAINS US
BY AIR OR SURFACE DOLS 1,500.00; EMBALMENT AS PRACTISED IN US
FOR VIEWING IS NOT AVAILABLE IN DENMARK. EVEN IF IT WERE,
RELIABLE REPORTS OF HEAVY CHARRING AND DEFACEMENT LEADS US RECOMMEND
THAT NOK BE WARNED AGAINST HARBORING ANY HOPE OF VIEWING REMAINS.

FUNERAL HOMES THAT HAVE PERFORMED SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO US ARE:

A. HUGO MULLER, ALLEGADE 13, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

TEL: 34 65 11

B. N.P. ROSTRUP, VALKENDORFSGADE 34, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

TEL: 14 07 78 OR 14 07 28

FUNDING AND INSTRUCTION PROCEDURES SHOULD BE CONTACTING DIRECTLY
DANISH FUNERAL HOME BY SELECTED (BY NOK) AMERICAN FUNERAL
HOME SPECIFYING SERVICES DESIRED. FUNDS SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED
SEPARATELY AND PROMPTLY THROUGH AMERICAN EXPRESS, NEW YORK TO
AMERICAN EXPRESS, COPENHAGEN, PAYABLE TO FOREIGN FUNERAL HOME
SELECTED "FOR CASE OF (FILL IN NAME OF DECEASED)".
EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, PERFORM USUAL REPORTING ON DEATHS.

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THESE PRICES MAY BE MAXIMUM
THAT WOULD BE CHARGED FOR SPECIFIC SERVICES BECAUSE OF UNUSUAL
CHARACTER OF CASE, AND NATURE OF SITUATION. CHARGES MAY BE LESS
BECAUSE OF CHARRING, TISSUE SHRINKAGE AND, IN SOME INSTANCES,
TOTAL DISINTEGRATION. IN SOME INSTANCES, REMAINS ARE TOTALLY RPT
TOTALLY DECOMPOSED EXCEPT FOR SKULL.

5. IN DISCUSSING THIS ELEMENT OF TRAGEDY WITH ANY NOK CONTACTING
DEPARTMENT, THEY MAY BE ASSURED THAT EMBASSY WILL DO ALL IT CAN
TO EXPEDITE AND FACILITATE PROCESSING REMAINS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THEIR WISHES
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